

MINUTES  
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
May 23, 2016

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, May 23, 2016, at 131 Main Street, South Lancaster, in the Historical Commission Office.

**Members Present:**

Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Mark Schryver, Michael Sczerzen, and Karen Silverthorn, Joan Richards, Associate Member

Absent: Mark Schryver, Garrett Sheahan and Jean Watson,  
Guest(s): Ted Manning, John Schumacher Hardy

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Michael Sczerzen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of the April 25, 2016, were corrected and approved unanimously on a motion made by Heather Lennon and seconded by Karen Silverthorn.

**Prescott Building:**

Michael Sczerzen reported following the Ad Hoc Committee meeting held Monday, April 19, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. at the Board of Selectmen's Meeting the BOS voted that the design plans presented at the meeting were the approved plans. The Cable TV show of the BOS meeting shows Ryan McNutt stating the meeting went well and the BOS voted the plans. The fact that the Historical Commission was opposed to the change to the second floor and that LHC was not invited when the "stakeholders" were given a tour was not mentioned. The LHC feels that we are again intentionally omitted from important decisions and discussion related to the project.

The LHC members agreed we should send an email to Ryan McNutt seeking an answer to the questions about the first floor of Town Hall being handicapped accessible. Discussion followed as to the positives to the town administrator remaining in the present office space he occupies with the BOS Assistant.

John-Schumacher Hardy, a guest, was recognized by Michael Sczerzen, and John wanted to go on record that he expressed his concern that what the townspeople voted for the second floor was not what was now being proposed. He felt that the Historical Commission should have all the original space that was voted when the plan was presented to the Town Meeting. He felt that the town administrator should remain in the town hall office space.

Joan Richards said that she watched the Cable TV Board of Selectmen's meeting of April 19 and that it was mentioned during the town administrator's report that a structure engineer had been hired to inspect the town hall. The Commission had asked Joan Richards to email Mary Bulso, Project Manager for the Prescott Building to obtain a copy of the final plans, which she did May 12<sup>th</sup>. Waiting information related to the final plans voted by the Board of Selectmen at their April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ted Manning was recognized by Michael Sczerzen, LHC Chair to speak. Ted Manning said that the town is waiting to apply for a bond issue for the water department. This bond issue is contingent on the Prescott Building plans being sent out for bids.

**Seven Bridge Road:** Michael Sczerzen reported that the National Grid power company has scheduled a hearing with the Conservation Commission. The LHC has sent a letter to the Conservation Committee with documentation attachments relating to the town voting Seven Bridge Road as a scenic highway. The hearing is scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup>. Michael Sczerzen stated he had an email from Ryan McNutt saying nothing would happen related to this issue until the fall. The LHC members were encouraged to attend this hearing, and are opposed to cutting the trees and moving the poles from their present location.

**131 Main Street** rented Office Space: Heather Lennon reported that on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May when she came into the office the ceiling files over the file cabinets along the wall were down on the floor and water dripping out of the plumbing and the floor was covered in water. She immediately called the Hometown Bank representative and also Kathleen Rocco at the Town Hall. David Foster came down and took pictures for insurance purposes and Heather was informed that the plumber would be called. She suggested Serve Pro for the cleanup. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of May when Heather and Joan were both in the office the water started to leak out of the pipe again and a waste basket was placed under the dripping and Heather again called the Hometown Bank representative. The bank representative was to pursue fixing the damage to the ceiling, plumbing and cleaning up the area.

**SHRAB (State Historical Records Advisory Board)** – Heather Lennon reported she had received an email from Dr. John Warner, Massachusetts State Archivist, that the LHC application for a grant has been approved and that their representative will soon be contacting Heather to start the second phase. The Commission members were very pleased to hear the good news and thanked Heather Lennon for pursuing this grant.

**LHC (Lancaster Historical Commission) Projects:** Further discussion related to LHC projects continue with the main emphasis on the Prescott Building move.

**Town Clock:** Karen Silverthorn and Heather Lennon reported they will have the sections of the video needing rework accomplished soon. Heather Lennon will call the First Church's administrator secretary to obtain copies of pictures of John Spencer, Town Clock Winder, for our files.

**Rowlandson Rock:** Heather Lennon and Michael Sczerzen will continue to pursue the easement for the town and report back when they have heard a definite answer. The Water Department had moved a large boulder which was blocking Mr. Warila's stone. The Water Department has replaced the fencing. The land had been surveyed by John Farnsworth who recommended a 30 foot easement. Bruce Warila is planning on listing his property for sale. The property is within site of the water tower and Parker Woods.

**Finance:** We are awaiting the printout of the monthly statement from Kathleen Rocco. Heather Lennon will pursue with the Finance Director the end of year deadlines for expenditures.

**Atherton and Ponakin Bridges** – Heather Lennon reported she had heard from Neal Raynor and he was to be in contact with Noreen Piazza about possible guidelines as to making these two rare pony truss bridges part of the Trails Committee plans.

**Accession:** Michael Sczerzen said that John Spencer had donated the clock hands which have been replaced on the Town Clock.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, June 27, 2016. Reminder: The Commission office will be open by appointment only for June, July and August 2016. Joan Richards will ask the town clerk to put this information on our portion of the town website

A motion was made at 8:10 p.m. by Karen Silverthorn to adjourn and Joy Peach seconded the motion. Michael Sczerzen called for the vote, and it was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting